

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Ed Murray upon his exemplary career in service of the state of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to our colleagues who have given unreservedly of themselves to improve the quality of life for their fellow Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, throughout all his endeavors in Tennessee state government, from his astute service in this General Assembly to his assured professionalism as a member of the Claims Commission, Ed Murray has distinguished himself as the consummate public servant; and

WHEREAS, a native of Decherd, Franklin County, Ed Murray attended the University of the South, received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Middle Tennessee State University and received his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the YMCA Law School in 1965; and

WHEREAS, Ed Murray is a highly capable attorney who has been licensed to practice law in the state of Tennessee for nearly 30 years, in addition to his meritorious service as a member of the House of Representatives for ten terms; and

WHEREAS, he was also previously engaged as a pilot for the state, and he personally flew Governor Buford Ellington's plane; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murray also proudly served his country as a pilot in the US Navy during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, from his initial service in this body as a freshman member of the 87th General Assembly until he announced that he would not seek re-election after only two terms as Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ed Murray was a diligent servant of Tennessee and

his constituents in House District 39, comprised of Franklin, Moore and a portion of Grundy counties; and

WHEREAS, no task was too menial or small, no problem too difficult or controversial, as Ed Murray pursued his elected duties with a vigor and conscience that was indeed uncommon; and

WHEREAS, he demonstrated his acumen and sagacity in affairs of business through his worthy tenure as Chairman of the House Commerce Committee for five consecutive General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, Ed Murray was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 95th General Assembly, thus continuing a legacy of quiet, yet solid, leadership and fairness and non-partisanship in determining issues of great moment in the legislature, and was subsequently re-elected to serve as Speaker for the 96th General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the House members' collective faith in Speaker Murray was well-placed and he repaid their vote of confidence by propelling the legislature into a new era of increased fiscal responsibility and expanded humanitarian concern, with attention raptly focused on the important issues of the 1990s; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his exemplary service in the General Assembly, Ed Murray has helped to mold the future of Franklin County and this great state through a variety of leadership positions in numerous community, civic and professional organizations, including service as president of the Franklin County Bar Association, president of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Winchester Airport Board, vice-president of the Southern Growth Policies Board, and as a dedicated member of the University of Tennessee Space Institute Support Council and Motlow College Development Council; and

WHEREAS, his vision and commitment as a community leader and public servant have allowed him to cut to the heart of important issues and offered well-reasoned solutions to the many problems perplexing government at all levels; and

WHEREAS, after his departure from the friendly confines of this General Assembly, Ed Murray has served with acumen, integrity and industry as a member of the Tennessee Claims Commission, representing the Middle Division since April 1, 1991; and

WHEREAS, Ed Murray has announced his intention to retire from state government effective June 10, 1995, thus ending the career of one of the most proficient and remarkable public servants that this state has ever produced; and

WHEREAS, although we will greatly miss Ed Murray's leadership, his good advice and his friendship, we realize that the tantalizing call of retirement must eventually be answered; we wish him all the best and thank him for a term of service unparalleled in devotion and efficacy in the annals of this great state's history; and

WHEREAS, Ed Murray is a man of integrity and a concerned citizen, who has always sought to serve the common good, and he should be specially honored; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and recognize Ed Murray upon his exemplary career in service of the state of Tennessee, first as a member, then as Speaker of the House of Representatives, and finally as a devoted member of the Tennessee Claims Commission; we salute his commitment to leading the examined life with liberality and courage and we extend to him our best wishes for peace and prosperity in his upcoming retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.